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Docket No: 04-01005

AMENDMENT IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended):

A clamp, comprising:

a link, said link having two side members connected at a first end by a cross member and attached at an opposite end at an apex;

a ring having a first end and a second end joined together by two longitudinal side pieces, said ring is slidably engaged with said link, wherein said link is positioned within said ring between said first and second ends so that said first and second ends slide along said two side members ~~said ring is slidably attached to said link;~~ and

a finger, said finger extending from said ring in a direction towards said apex and terminating at an end ~~one of the longitudinal side pieces of said ring.~~

Claim 2 (original):

The clamp of claim 1, wherein said link is formed of a single piece of material that is bent to form the two side members and the cross member and the free ends of the material are joined together to form the apex.

Claim 3 (original):

The clamp of claim 1, wherein said ring is formed of a single piece of material that is bent to form the first end, the second end, and the two longitudinal side pieces.

Claim 4 (original):

The clamp of claim 3, wherein said finger is formed by bending a portion of said single piece of material inward towards the center of said ring and then making a second bend in the portion of said single piece of material at 90 degrees thereto forming said finger.

Claim 5 (currently amended):

A clamp for securing a section of rope comprising:

a link, said link is formed of a single piece of material that is bent to form two side members, a cross member and an apex;

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a ring, said ring is formed of a single piece of material that is bent to form a first end, a second end, and two longitudinal side pieces, said ring is slidably engaged with said link; and

a finger; said finger extending from said ring in a direction towards said apex and terminating at an end extending from one of the longitudinal side pieces of said ring; and wherein the section of rope includes a loop that is compressed between said ring and the cross member of said link.

Claim 6 (original):

The clamp of claim 5, wherein said finger is integral with said ring.

Claim 7 (original):

The clamp of claim 5, wherein the side members of said link are parallel and lie on a common plane in space.

Claim 8 (original):

The clamp of claim 7, wherein said finger extends perpendicularly from said ring.

Claim 9 (original):

The clamp of claim 5, wherein said link is formed from a single piece of wire and wherein said ring is formed from a single piece of wire.

Claim 10 (canceled):

Claim 11 (currently amended):

The clamp of ~~claim 10~~ claim 14, wherein said side members are parallel and lie along a common plane so that said link is substantially flat.

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Claim 12 (original):

The clamp of claim 11, wherein said link is of a single piece of wire bent to form the two side members, the cross member and further wherein, the ends of the single piece of wire are joined at a point form in the apex.

Claim 13 (canceled):**Claim 14 (new):**

A clamp for securing a rope having a section thereof formed into a loop comprising:

a link having two side members connected at a first end by a cross member and attached at an opposite end at an apex;

a ring slidably attached to said link, said ring having a first end and a second end joined together by two longitudinal side pieces; and

a finger extending from one of the longitudinal side pieces of said ring towards the apex of said link, wherein said ring and said finger are integral and are formed from a single piece of wire bent to form the first end, the second end and the two longitudinal side pieces of said ring and said finger.

Claim 15 (new):

The clamp of claim 14, wherein said finger extends in a direction towards said apex and terminates at an end.